

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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GENEVA FOR US DELEGATION CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR CASC

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET MARRIAGES

REF: STATE 071561 NOTAL

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES PROGRAM OF BRIEFINGS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL TO ACQUAINT PROSPECTIVE EXHIBIT GUIDES AND OTHER YOUNG PERSONS ASSIGNED HERE ON TEMPORARY DUTY ABOUT SOVIET MARRIAGE PROCEDURES AND EMIGRATION REALITIES. DEPARTMENT/USIA CAN PERHAPS SPARE A FUTURE GUIDE MUCH HEARTBREAK AND DESCRIBE SITUATION GRAPHICALLY IF SPECIFIC CASES ARE WOVEN INTO SUCH BRIEFINGS. WITH THIS IN MIND, DEPARTMENT/USIA MAY BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SEVERAL PREVIOUSLY REPORTED CASES.

2. CONSOFF RECEIVED LETTER APRIL 10 FROM MIKHAIL HAMMAND, FORMER OUTDOOR RECREATION EXHIBIT GUIDE, DESCRIBING HARASSMENT AND BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS TO WHICH HIS SOVIET WIFE TANIA (MARRIED DECEMBER 1973) HAS BEEN SUBJECTED. ACCORDING TO HAMMOND, TANIA FILED FORMAL APPLICATION FOR EXIT VISA AT IRKUTSK OVIR IN EARLY

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FEBRUARY BUT IT WAS REJECTED IMMEDIATELY FOR LACK OF PROPER

PERSONAL REFERENCE (KHARAKTERISTIKA). WHEN SHE TRIED TO OBTAIN SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY REFERENCES, OVIR TOLD HER ONLY ACCEPTABLE REFERENCE WOULD BE ONE FROM EMPLOYER, AFTER MANDATORY SIX MONTHS WORK.

3. HAMMOND FURTHER IN HIS LETTER WRITES THAT HIS WIFE SOUGHT EMPLOYMENT BUT WAS REFUSED REPEATEDLY. FINALLY IRKUTSK MAYOR, WITH WHOM WIFE'S FAMILY EVIDENTLY HAS SOME CONNECTIONS, FOUND HER A PLACE IN GORISOPKOM. IN PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, HOWEVER, MAYOR ALLEGEDLY WARNED THAT SHE SHOULD FORGET ABOUT EXIT VISA. ACCORDING TO HAMMOND, WIFE REPORTED MAYOR AS SAYING BEGIN QUOTE: WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES IN OUR YOUTH. I TOO HAVE MADE MANY. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO FORGET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. I CANNOT CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR ERROR BY HELPING YOU OBTAIN EXIT VISA. END QUOTE. AT LAST REPORT TANIA IS STILL WORKING IN IRKUTSK, HOPING TO EARN REQUIRED REFERENCE TO SATISFY ITITIAL OVIR REQUIREMENT.

4. IN A FURTHER US-SOVIET MARRIAGE CASE, MFA FIRST SECRETARY NECHAYEV TOLD CONSOFF APRIL 11 THAT SOVIET HUSBAND OF HELEN (MRS. RAZMIK) GHARIBIAN, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, HAS AGAIN BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO LEAVE SOVIET UNION (MOSCOW 3939 AND PREVIOUS). WHEN CONSOFF NOTED THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES THEMSELVES HAD AGREED TO THIS AMERICAN GIRL'S MARRIAGE WITH GHARIBIAN IN NOVEMBER 1972, NECHAYEV COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT VALIDITY OF MARRIAGE BUT THAT "IF COUPLE WISHED TO LIVE TOGETHER SHE WOULD HAVE TO COME AND LIVE HERE."

6. AMERICAN WOMAN IREX PARTICIPANT NANCY HASEGAWA, WHO IS WILLING TO LIVE HERE AT LEAST INITIALLY WITH INTENDED SOVIET HUSBAND, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SCHEDULE MARRIAGE BECAUSE OF BUREAUCRATIC RUN-AROUND BY MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY (MGU) AND MOSCOW ZAGS. SHE CAME TO USSR FOR 1973-74 ACADEMIC YEAR WITH ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE AND TWO SMALL CHILDREN. MARRIAGE BROKE UP AT MGU, AND SHE BECAME ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH SOVIET STUDENT. HUSBAND, A JAPANESE-CITIZEN U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENT, RETURNED TO US AND OBTAINED DIVORCE. CHILDREN ARE NOW IN US WITH HIM. SINCE SHE IS FOREIGN STUDENT AT MGU. ZAGS REQUIRES SPRAVKA FROM MGU RE HER STATUS. MGU PROVIDED DOCUMENT, BUT INSISTED ON ADDING NOTATION THAT SHE CAME TO USSR WITH HUSBAND AND CHILDREN. TO DATE ZAGS HAS NOT DISPUTED VALIDITY OF HER US DIVORCE, BUT HAS REJECTED MGU SPRAVKA, CLAIMING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORMAT IS PRESCRIBED, AND SPRAVKA WITH SUPERFLOUS NOTATION IS UNACCEPTABLE. TO DATE MGU REFUSES TO PROVIDE SPRAVKA WITHOUT OFFENDING NOTATION.
STOESSEL

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